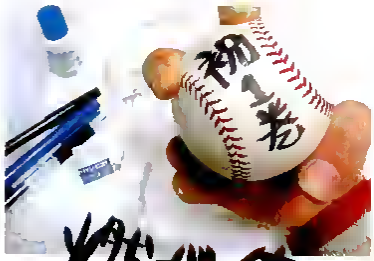

新人で未熟者ですが一生懸命がんばります!!
最後まで全力投球します!!!
村上よしゆき

新約「巨人の星」

花形

1

原作 梶原一騎・川崎のぼる
作画 村上よしゆき

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

HANAGATA

KODANSHA

COVER DESIGN
シマダヒデアキ(L.S.D.)

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HANAGATA

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2006.11

KC MAGAZINE

新約「巨人の星」

花形 1

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花形 1

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★この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、一切関係ありません。

掲載／週刊少年マガジン 2006年第36／37号～第40号

KOSHIEN STADIUM IS IN AN UPROAR!
IT'S THE FINALS, SO OF COURSE IT'S PACKED! OH, AND..!
IT'S NOW TIME TO WELCOME...
THE MIRACULOUS, THE GENIUS BATTER!
#4, FIRST BASEMAN,

CHAPTER 1
THAT MAN, HANAGATA

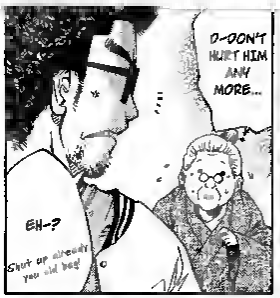
花形

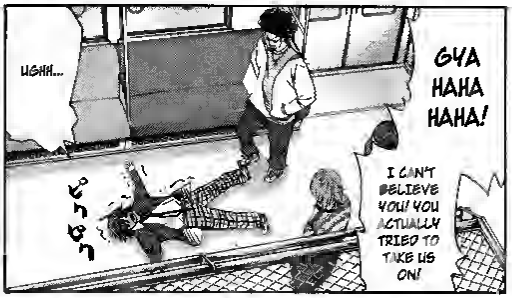
HOWEVER, THIS STORY STARTS SEVERAL YEARS AGO...
ガタン ゴトン
E- EXCUSE ME, BUT..
DO YOU WANT ME TO POUR JUICE ON YOU?
I'M TELLIN' YOU... HURRY UP AND GIMME YOUR MONEY! A THOUSAND BUCKS!
I-I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY..
THAT'S THE CLEANING PRICE, YOU OLD HAG!
ガタン ゴトン
I DON'T LIKE THIS..
YOU HAVE A PENSION, DON'T YOU?! SO HURRY UP AND...
Y'GOT BUSINESS WITH US OR SOMETHIN'...?
...HUH? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU GUYS!
UH...
YOU'RE...?!

TINY!
Is he in elementary school?
WHAT?! HOW RUDE!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF TALKING TO THIS OLD BAG...
IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US, BRAT?
D-DON'T BELIEVE A WORD THEY SAY...
I'M NOT SMALL! I'M 5 FEET TALL!
Really 4'11"
AND I JUST STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL THIS YEAR!
...SO?
LADY?
WELL, I CAN'T JUST STAND BY WHILE YOU ROUGH UP A LADY!
YOU GUYS ARE ROTTEN... WHY DON'T YOU TRY ME ON FOR SIZE?!

ピクピク
OH... OW OW OW...


D-DON'T HURT HIM ANY MORE...
EH-?
Shut up already you old bag!


UGHH...
GYA HAHA HAHA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU ACTUALLY TRIED TO TAKE US ON!

...MUMBLE MUMBLE..
?
HUH? WHAT..? IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGISE, CAN YOU SPEAK LOUD ENOUGH FOR US TO ACTUALLY HEAR IT?

I WONDER, IF HE CRIES AND BEGS FOR FORGIVENESS, DO YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FORGIVE HIM?
ha ha ha

THE KID CAME TO US WITH THE INTENTION OF FIGHTING! WE JUST... HELPED HIM.
UGH UGH..
GYAHAHA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BEING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY?

WHAAAT?
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! I'LL KILL YOU!
GUH?!
OH... PLEASE STOP, OR ELSE YOU REALLY WILL KILL HIM!
SHUT UP, OLD BAG!
!
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU CLAPPING?!
I WON'T... BOW DOWN TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!

WHOA!!
OH NO, I WAS JUST CHEERING!
WH.. WHAT ARE YOU...?!
NO-
So... So tall!
WHAT?
I WAS CHEERING THE TINY WEAKLING ON..
Y-YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING, RIGHT?!
I'M READY TO GO ANYTIME YOU WANT!! BRING IT!!
DON'T GET SO ARROGANT JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE A LITTLE TALL!!

NO...!
ふはは
NO.. I HATE VIOLENCE AND STUFF...!
...EH?
OKA-Y!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S SEE YOU TRY TO STOP US!
GOOD ANSWER, HUH? HAHAHAHA
I'M A PACIFIST! LOVE & PEACE-
B-BUT.. AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP...? PLEASE?
DOES THIS MEAN HE'S GONNA TRY TO SAVE THE BRAT AND THE GRANNY OR WHAT?
UM?
GYAHAHA! WELL ISN'T HE A HAPPY GUY?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT HAIRSTYLE?!
KAHA, RIGHT? THERE ARE BRAIDS IN THE BACK!
HM?
IT'S JUST YOU, AFTER ALL.
OR ARE YOU TOO SCARED?

W-WHAT IN THE— I THOUGHT Y-YOU SAID YOU WERE A PACIFIST!!
—YOU LAUGHED AT ME, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAAT?

WHOA, YUU-CHAN?!
GUWAH!!

PEOPLE WHO LAUGH AT MY BRAIDS— WELL—
AT MY FASHIONABLE HAIRSTYLE—

EEEEEK! HE HAD A BAT IN HIS COAT?!
THIS GUY'S CRAZY! RUN!!
I BEAT THEM UNTIL THEIR FUCKIN' SPINES SNAP!!
WHAT? WE CAN'T GO THAT WAY...?
CONDUCTOR? HEEEAALP!!
DIIIIIIIIIIE!
OH GOD!!
ぐさっ♡
!
STOP!

HU-H? WHAT, KID?
WHAT DID YOU YELL "STOP" FOR?
HUH?
BECAUSE THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT USE FOR A BAT.
EEEK... HELP...!!
THESE GUYS WERE BEATIN' YOU UP, SO WHY'RE YOU TRYIN' TO SAVE THEM?
YOU SHOULDN'T USE A BAT AS A WEAPON!
HM-?

HYAHAHAHAHA!!
BOY, YOU SAY SOME PRETTY FUNNY THINGS~!
!
BUT I'M REALLY PISSED THAT THEY LAUGHED AT MY TRENDY HAIRCUT! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WELL, THAT'S EASY.
JUST DON'T USE THE BAT!
I DON'T OBJECT TO YOU BEATING THEM UP!
I SEE- YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOU!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT REASONING!
THEN LET ME SPEAK WITH MY GENTLE FIST... ♡
GYAAAAA!

THANKS A LOT FOR SAVING ME.
I'M SORRY YOU BOTH HAD TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THAT...
TRULY SORRY...
IT'S OK, MA'AM.
BEING MEAN TO LADIES IS UNFORGIV-ABLE!!
I'M COMPLETELY FINE! NEVER BEEN BETTER!
You don't have to worry about me, ma'am!
R... REALLY...
This kid's got a lot of pride...
S-BUT, YOUNG MAN; I THINK YOU'R OVERDOI IT...
HYAHAHA, OKAY, OKAY
YOU GOT BEAT UP, YOUNG MAN. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH...? M-ME?

YOU STOOD UP AND FOUGHT, WITH GREAT COURAGE.
O...OLD LADY?!
THAT FIGHT WAS...
OLD LADY, WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
!
BUT... WASN'T THAT REALLY DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO DO?
.....
IF THIS OTHER YOUNG MAN HADN'T BEEN THERE TO HELP, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN QUITE A PICKLE!
IN THAT CASE, I DIDN'T REALLY HELP, DID I?
I... DON'T REMEMBER ASKING FOR HELP, BUT...
.....

YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL AT THIS TIME...?
N-NO! I HAD TO STOP BY THE HOSPITAL...
YOU A SLACKER?
I DON'T WANNA DRINK! I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL!
ガーン
DRINK?! W-WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? I'M UNDER-AGE!
YEAH!! SINCE WE'RE SUCH KINDRED SPIRITS, WHY DON'T WE GO OUT DRINKING UNTIL THE MORNING?
HOSPITAL? WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
OH NO... THAT'S...
.....
I'M PERFECTLY FINE NOW, THOUGH!
HA!
I OBJECT TO THAT!
YOU OBJECT?
FLOWERS ARE.. PRETTY WHEN THEY'RE BLOOMING..
...HUH? FLOWERS?
HEY, KID, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
HA.. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

サアッ
The flowers blossom and their petals scatter...
From now until...
I am...
Even now...
Still blossoming.

DANGIT.. I MISSED THE OPENING CEREMONY.
AND I HAD TO GO BUY MY LUNCH FROM THE 7-11...
ぽく
Perfect recovery..
BUT... I'M GLAD. HAHAHA.
At last, with this... I can do it..

I CAN... PLAY BASEBALL AGAIN!!
!?
WHOA, WHAT A STRONG WIND!
I CAN HARDLY SEE..
HUH..?!

UH... THAT'S...
!?

GUUUGH!
YOU ARE THE WORST!!
THE.. THE WINDOW WAS OPEN!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DID HAVE THIS FEELING IT WAS
HUH..?
I CAN'T STAND PEEPING TOMS!
IF YOUR PARENTS KNEW, THEY WOULD CRY! WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DID YOU COME HERE TO GET?!
I MUST'VE FORGOTTEN TO SHUT IT.. UWAH! I'M SO SORRY-

HERE!
Take this.
TH-THANK YOU..
She's really... Pretty...
OH? YOU...?
EH?
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN YOUR POCKET, OR...?
UM...
THIS... THIS IS!!
SO YOU REALLY WERE PEEPING AFTER ALL...? HAHAHA
NO!! ER, UM... THIS IS...

I HAD A BASEBALL IN MY POCKET!
BASE-BALL?
DO YOU... ALWAYS WALK AROUND WITH THAT? THAT'S STRANGE... IS IT VERY IMPORTANT?
AH... NO...
I BOUGHT IT ON MY WAY IN TO SCHOOL... It was 760 yen...
TO ME, AS A PITCHER...
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT...
.....
HMM... IS THAT SO?
SO...
YOU'RE GOOD AT BASEBALL?

YEAH! I AM GOOD AT BASEBALL!
—SUCH CONFIDENCE,
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD USUALLY SAY
I— WAS AN ACE IN LITTLE LEAGUE
AND BELIEVED I WOULDN'T LOSE AS I MOVED UP INTO HIGHER LEAGUES
I WOULD PITCH THINKING THAT—
NO ONE COULD GET A HIT OFF ME
PITCHING IS EVERYTHING TO ME...
I just can't think about not being able to pitch
That's why—
The mound..
Standing on the mound...

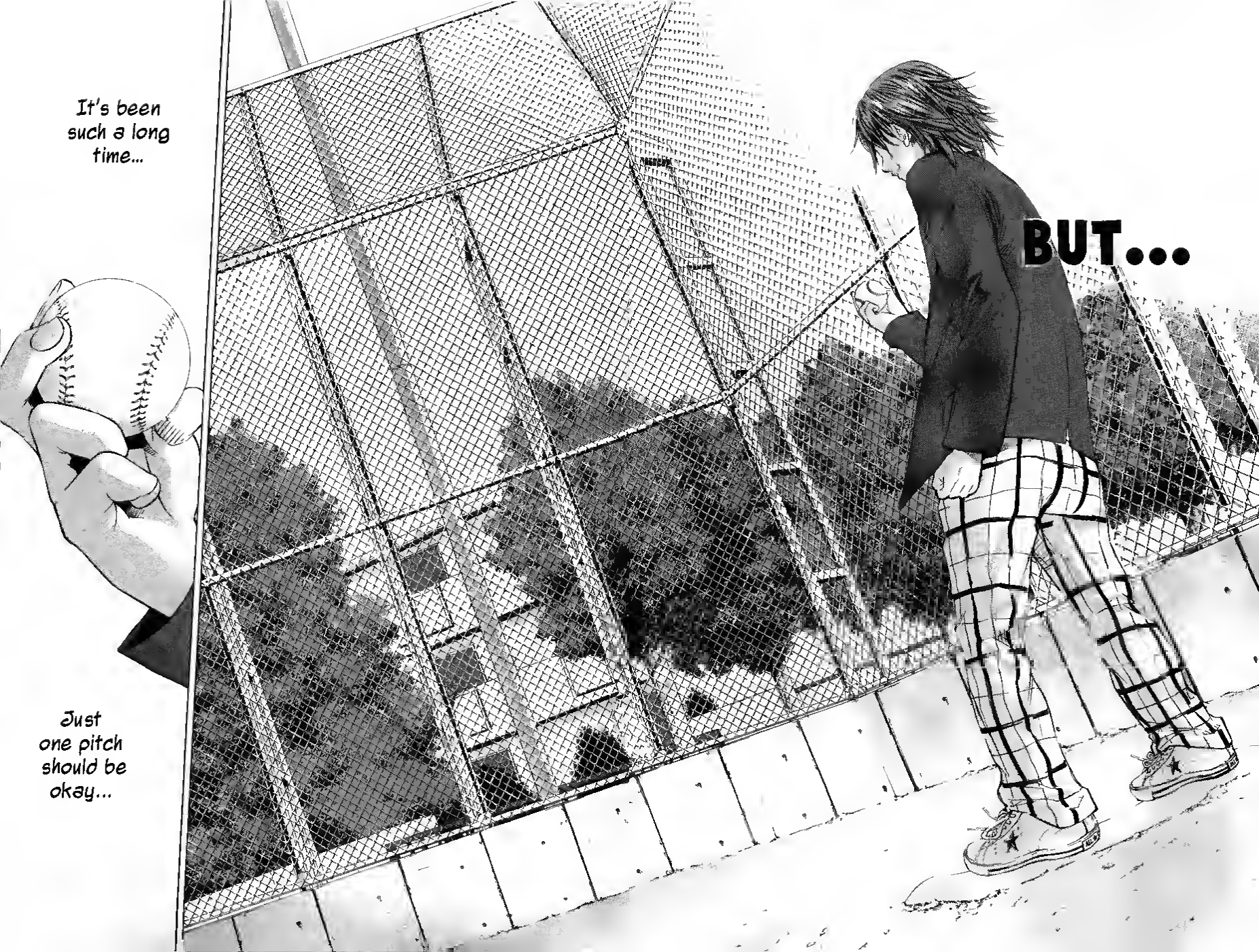
I WILL
BLOOM!!

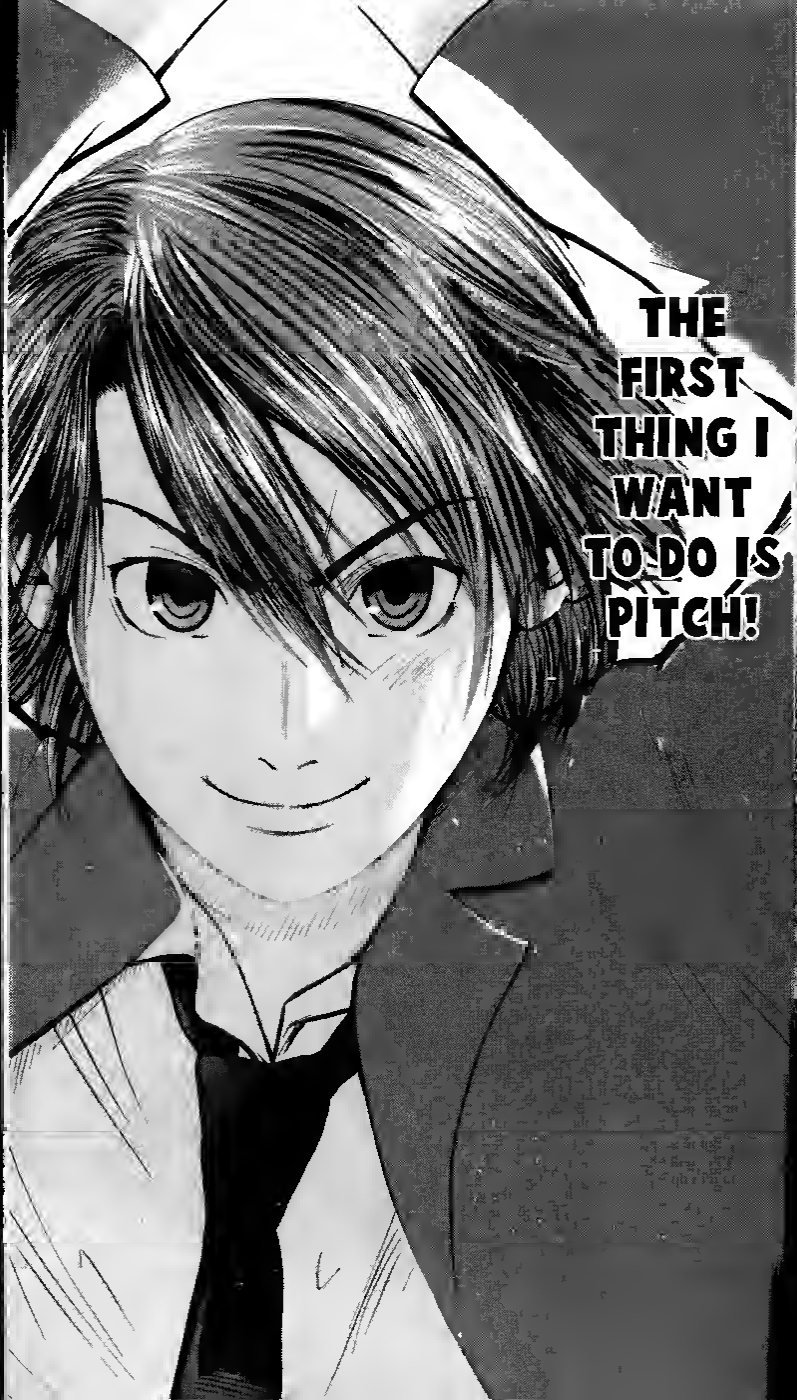
...FUFU...
FUFU FUFU
FUFU
?
FUFU FUFU
AHAHA SORRY, SORRY!
W-WHAT IS SO FUNNY?
I WAS THINKING THAT YOU REALLY LIKE BASEBALL!
AND, WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT?
AHA HAHAHAH AHAHA!!
AHAHA HAHAH AHAHA HA!
FUFU!
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO CHEER YOU ON NOW...
ALIKE?
YOU REALLY ARE ALIKE,

BECAUSE, YOU HAVE THE SAME EYES AS HIM!
AH... AGH!?
H-h-her face is really close!
ARA... SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE IS COMING...
UWA!? THEN, WITH THAT?
AH!
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
AH- HEY, WAIT!
?
HUH? WAS THERE SOMEONE OUTSIDE?
YEAH... THIS VERY INTERESTING KID...FUFU
ARE YOU GONNA CLOSE THE WINDOW?
AH, SORRY, I WILL... OH...

I DIDN'T CATCH HIS NAME...
OWW...
HAH HAH OW OW OW
HAH HAH HAH
AH- OUCH!
She was pretty...
SO.. SURPRISING!
AAAH, NO NO NO!
SHE THOUGHT THAT I WAS PEEPING!
UWA, MY FACE IS GOING ALL RED AGAIN..
HMM?
....!
HOW RUDE OF HER...

A BASEBALL FIELD?
A CLUB ISN'T PRACTICING...
THE BASEBALL CLUB, OR...
NO ONE IS USING IT, HUH...
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS IS A PREP SCHOOL...
OF COURSE THEY WOULDN'T PRACTICE EVERY DAY...
WELL, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME,
YEAH...
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME..
.....


It's been such a long time...
Just one pitch should be okay...
BUT...


THE FIRST THING I WANT TO DO IS PITCH!

TRASH?
HMM?
I WANTED TO PITCH, AND THIS...
.....
THEY DON'T DO MAINTENANCE ON THE FIELD?
LOOKING AROUND, THE FIELD IS FILTHY DIRTY...
THERE ARE TONS OF ROCKS TOO...
WHAT DO THEY THINK A BASEBALL FIELD IS?
UMA, THERE ARE EVEN CIGARETTE BUTTS!
UNFOR-GIVABLE!
ゴオオオ
SIGH...
オ
オ
オ
オ

WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH TRASH ALL OVER THE FIELD?
MY CLOTHES GOT ALL DIRTY...
IT'S HORRIBLE!
I'M GONNA TALK TO THE BASEBALL CLUB ABOUT THIS...
IT'S JUST A LACK OF EFFORT.
AH
THE BALL!

AAAA

DID YOU GET HURT?
BUT... YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING, AND THAT FALL..
I'M FINE!
THAT'S MY LINE!
.....
.....?
I'M OKAY. I MAY NOT LOOK STURDY, BUT...
HM?
HMMMMMM...
W-WHAT IS IT?
ビク

MITSURU HANA-GATA!?
EH? EH?!?
I DON'T SUPPOSE...
YOU ARE...
I MUST HAVE SEEN YOU PITCH A HUNDRED TIMES! YOU HAVE THE MOST AMAZING STRAIGHT BALL!
I-IS THAT SO?
WHY DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT...
THE FAMOUS LITTLE LEAGUE PITCHER HIMSELF!
I NEVER EVER THOUGHT I'D MEET THE FUTURE ACE WHO WAS SO AMAZING IN LAST YEAR'S PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT!
THIS IS GREAT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? I'VE NEVER MET YOU...
AMANO?
WHY ARE YOU WASTING TIME HERE,

WHERE'S THE STUFF YOU WENT TO GET FOR US?
HUH? CAPTAIN?
.....
?
AKAGAWA..
WHO ARE THEY?
AH, I'M SORRY AKAGAWA... THE STUFF...
HEY, AMANO... WHY ARE YOU MESSING AROUND WITH THAT KID?
HAAAH?
I'M SORRY... I'M GOING TO GO GET MORE, SO PLEASE WAIT...
OIOI, WHAT'S THIS? EVERYTHING IS ALL BUSTED UP!
THE BASEBALL CLUB?

GUOEA!
WAIT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
AH? WHO'S THAT? WANNA PLAY, PUNK?
"PLEASE WAIT" WHAAAAT?
WHA-?
WHAT A USELESS CAPTAIN..
YOU HAD THE TIME TO FOOL AROUND WITH THAT KID, BUT NOT TO GO AND GET OUR THINGS?
NANAGATA-KUN!
WHAT? WHO IS A PUNK!? TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN, YOU..!
BUT... I WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THE STUFF...
WELL...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU... JUST FORGET IT..
A... AMANO-SAN?

SHOULDN'T GET MIXED UP IN A QUARREL LIKE THIS ONE.
..AMANO -SAN...
SOME-ONE WITH POTENTIAL LIKE YOU...
.....
THAT IS...
AMANO-SAN.. WHY...
WHY DO YOU DO THIS?
IT'LL BE OKAY IF I JUST RUN BACK TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
.....
YEAH, AMANO.. ALWAYS THE CLEVER ONE.
...BECAUSE HE'S THE CAPTAIN. ♡

IT'D BE A SHAME IF THE CLUB WAS FORCED TO DISBAND!
IF WE QUIT THE CLUB THEN THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH MEMBERS,
RIGHT? CAPTAIN ♡
NOBODY ELSE WILL JOIN! You should be thankful we're here!
HAHAHAHA! THERE ISN'T A CHOICE WITH THIS CLUB,
AH?
AH, SORRY AKAGAWA I DON'T HAVE MUCH ON ME...
COULD I BORROW A LITTLE MONEY?
!?
BORROW MONEY? AMANO..
AH!
DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY!

!?
AH?

?
HUH? THE CHANGE...
?
Did he...?
EH?
ちゃりん
796 YEN...
CATCH THE CHANGE THAT WAS JUST?
ちゃりん
LET'S TAKE BETTER CARE OF OUR MONEY.

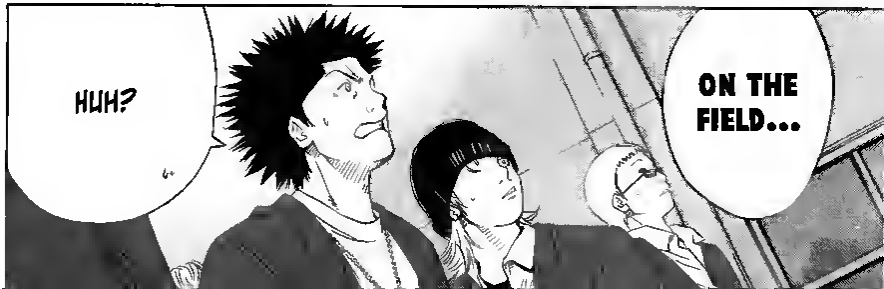
THIS BASEBALL CLUB IS A DISAPPOINTMENT!
AH?
U-YOU... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

THE MEMBERS ARE NO-GOODERS WHO DON'T CARE...
THOSE ARE MEANT TO BE THE FOUNDATIONS OF A CLUB!
THE FIELD WAS FULL OF TRASH BECAUSE YOU DON'T PRACTICE...

I AM!

SO WHAT OF IT?
ARE YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT?

.....


HUH?
ON THE FIELD...

IF YOU CAN GRAZE THIS BALL...
I WILL GO AND FETCH WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO.
YOU PUNK!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU CAN HIT IT, SO IT'S OKAY TO BACK DOWN, SENPAI
BUT DON'T GET SO COCKY, PUNK...
I DUNNO HOW GOOD YOU THINK YOU ARE...
SOME PUNK'S PITCH...
I WON'T HIT...
THERE'S NO WAY...

ZETT

(Translator's note: the big backpacks that elementary schoolers use in Japan)

This kid is...
.....
Little League ace, Mitsuru Hongaeta,
I'LL HIT THE NEXT ONE!
His form is a little odd, but Akagawa won't be able to touch a pitch...
Speed and control together... From a kid who doesn't look like he can shoulder a Randosel,*

THE
REAL
DEAL!
グッ

THAT WAS FAST, BUT IT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL.
HEH... DON'T GET COCKY, KID
?
EVERYONE TRIES TO CONSOLE THEMSELVES BY SAYING THAT
HAH!
!!?
THERE'S SOMEONE IN OUR CLUB WHO'S PITCH IS FASTER!
A... AMANO-SAN?
.....
RIGHT, AMANO? THAT GUY'S PITCH IS FASTER.
.....
HE... DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW.
HAHAHA! HE DIDN'T DENY IT!

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
Try to hit...
He's putting more of his weight into it this time!
!!
THIS ONE!

#10
-5

H...
HANAGATA...
KUN?

IT DIDN'T MAKE IT!
OIOI, WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?
Hanagata-Kun?
スキ
GUWAA!!
OF COURSE I CAN HIT THIS! HAHAHAHAHA
WHY'D YA GRAB YOUR SHOULDER ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AH... I DON'T SUPPOSE...
YOUR SHOULDER IS SHOT, RIGHT?
!?

I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS STRANGE...
へっ
.....
HAHAHA! NO REPLY? THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
THERE'S NO WAY SOME ONE GOOD WOULD COME HERE
LOST YOUR RECOMMENDATION?
WERE YOUR DREAMS CRUSHED?
!!
IT'S NO GOOD! DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF, HANAGATA-KUN!
GUU...
!!!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, JUST ADMIT IT!
SORRY FOR PUSHING YOU! HAHAHAHA
ばばばっ
GIVE UP AND GO GET US SOME JUICE!
Hahahaha
YOU CAN'T THROW, SO IT'S OUR WIN.
OKAY.. LET'S END THIS, broke a good sweat
The doctor said it had healed.
IT'S..
IT'S NOT OVER YET,
IT'S YOUR LOSS.
ガッ

HAA? HEY HEY, CUT IT OUT!
ONE BALL...
YA CAN'T JUST KEEP—
THAT INJURY IS BAD ENOUGH TO SEND YOU TO THE HOSPITAL,
PAIN SO BAD THAT IT MAKES YOU KEEL OVER..
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ

...THAT'S...
ボト
GYAHA HAHAHA HAHA!
IT'S GONNA BE THE SAME NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU THROW IT!
YOU CAN'T SEND IT ACROSS THE PLATE!
That's four balls anyway
YOU LOOK RETARDED! HAHAHA HAHA!
WHAT? HE'S GETTING WORKED UP ABOUT IT!
HAHAHA, IS HE GONNA CRY?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
HANAGATA-KUN...
LET'S JUST QUIT ALREADY
I. I CAN STILL!
HAHAHA... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

おはははは
NO MATTER HOW YA SEE IT, IT'S YOUR LOSS.
Throwing the ball with that shoulder with that pitching form... Impossible!
ぎゃはっ
ハハハハッ
ぐおおっ
I...
HAHAHA THE LITTLE PUNK GOT CARRIED AWAY!
WHAT AN IDIOT HE'S A REAL MORON!
Hahahaha
Hana-gata-kun
OI, IS HE GONNA CRY?
GYAHAHAHA IIIDIOT!
I...
SO...
まじゅっ
My shoulder hurts more than when I first injured it but...
I CAN STILL....
I can't lose here... not to them...
I CAN STILL PITCH!

A BALL DIDN'T HIT THE WALL.
A CAN DID!
THAT CRAZY PITCH...
HUH?
THAT KID HURT HIS SHOULDER, RIGHT?
WH... WHAT WAS THAT?
UWAA!?
Behind me...
From...
Where did it come from...
Eh... a can...?
LOOK, THE BALL IS ROLLING AROUND THERE!
IT WASN'T HIS PITCH?

!?
FR-
FROM THAT DISTANCE..!?
!?
HYAHA!
HMMM, SO IT IS YOU, KID

WHY .. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HYAHAHAHA! MAYBE COINCIDENCE, MAYBE A MIRACLE..
I GO TO THIS SCHOOL TOO! LIKE FATE, YA?
HAHAHA
KID... ARE YOU BEIN' PICKED ON AGAIN?
I-IS THAT SO?
!
I WASN'T BEING PICKED ON ..
.....
...NO...
WE... WERE JUST PLAYING BASEBALL!

GUUH!
KURO-SAWA!?
AREN'T I ALWAYS SAVING..
!?
ドサッ
WHA...?
DON'T PLAY BASEBALL AT THIS SCHOOL!

THIS GUY IS PART OF THEIR GROUP, HUH...
UGUU!
Kurosawa...
WHY IS THIS GUY...
WHY? WHY DID YOU SAY NOT TO PLAY BASEBALL AT THIS SCHOOL?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY YOU?
BECAUSE,
ヒョッ

ゴッ
HANAGATA-KUN DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
ドッ
ゴッ
CUT IT OUT, KUROSAWA!
KURO-SAWA!
ガスッ
ドッ
HIS SHOULDER IS GONE!
ガッ
オッ
HE CAN'T THROW THE BALL ANYMORE, SO...
ゴッ
ドッ
HE CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL!
NOT PLAYING BASEBALL IS A GOOD THING — RATHER, NOT BEING ABLE TO...
WEEELL... I'M SORRY..
...IS THAT SO?

A PITCHER WHO CAN'T TAKE THE MOUND...
WELL, WITH A SHOULDER LIKE THAT, LITTLE LEAGUE OR ANYTHING ELSE IS HOPELESS,
ISN'T NEEDED IN BASEBALL
!?
In base-ball?
I'm not...
Isn't... needed?

I was...
I... was an ace...
I was... an ace...
WHAT A GENIUS!
HANAGATA! HANAGATA!
HANA-GATA!
HANA-GATAA!
JUST ONE MORE! ONE MORE!
Shouldn't have been like this...
It...

HIS SHOULDER GAVE WAY?
WHAT AN IDIOT, TO SUFFER IN SILENCE FOR SO LONG
I HEARD HE HAS BEEN IN PAIN FOR A WHILE BUT WAS HIDING IT,
HANAGATA HURT HIS SHOULDER DURING THAT MATCH...
HE WAS PRETTY GOOD, BUT..
HE OVERDID IT,
ALWAYS STAYING BEHIND AFTER PRACTICE TO PITCH..
That's not...
HE CAN'T PLAY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL NOW.
I... I...
I can do it...
Wrong,
THERE'S NO NEED FOR A PITCHER WHO CAN'T THROW.

HANA... GATA-KUN...

OVER BASEBALL?
UWAAA, HE'S CRYING FOR REAL?
REALLY?

NO REASON TO GET SO UPSET
IS NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY THAT BAD?

.....

Y-YEAH..
THIS IS OVER...I'M LEAVING

I can't...
Pitch anymore!
I WAS... SNIFF.. LITTLE LEAGUE... ACE...
ON THE MOUND, NO ONE COULD... SNIFF...

I'm not able to throw,
"Isn't needed in baseball..."
My shoulder is probably bad...
But even if my shoulder is bad...
Base-ball...
I still want...
I STILL WANT TO PLAY BASE-BALL!

That's right...
I don't want it to end here!
I can't...
YOU WITH THE FUNNY HEAD, WAIT!
That's why...
HEY, KID...

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU MAKE FUN OF MY HAIR
RIGHT?
!
I... CHALLENGE YOU!
HAA? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KID?
I'LL BE THE BATTER
Wha-?
Hanaga-
so...
I'll take back,
PITCH TO ME.
What...
What I lost on that day.

I CHALLENGE YOU!

花形

HANAGATA

花形

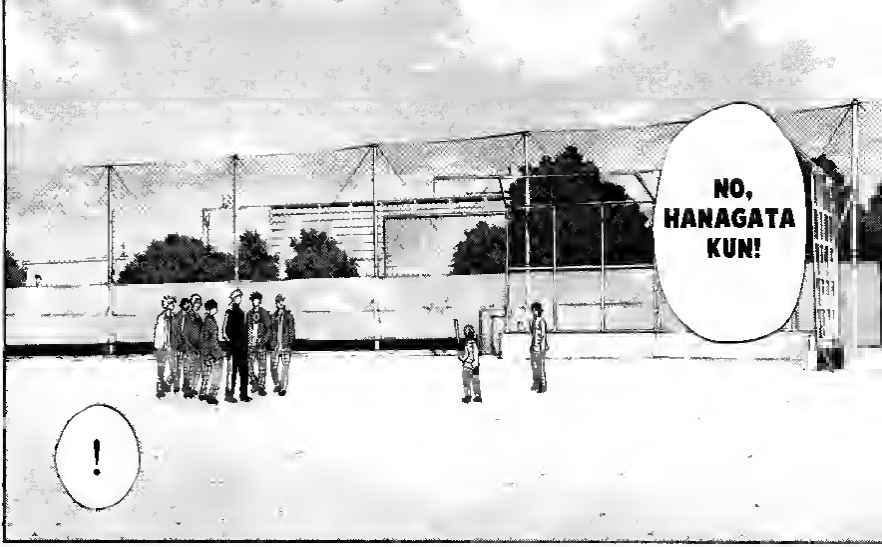
CREDITS: PEOPLE AND THOSE PEOPLE DID VARIOUS THINGS... ARE NAMES REALLY NEEDED?

BOTH GROUPS ARE HIRING ALL POSITIONS APPLY AT WWW.CHIBISUKE-SCANS.COM OR EMAIL MATHI36@CHIBISUKE-SCANS.COM TO APPLY AT DEADBEAT-SCANS DO SO ON OUR FORUMS WWW.DEADBEAT-SCANS.COM/FORUMS

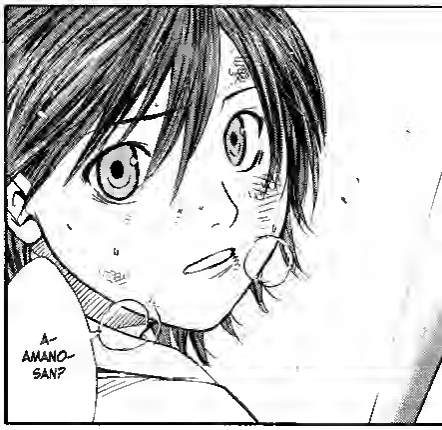
OH YEAH, I'M ALSO LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO SUBSCRIBE TO MORNING MAGAZINE. IF YOU DO PLEASE POST ON OUR FORUMS OR EMAIL JAZZMATAZZ ON: STAFF@DEADBEAT-SCANS.COM

Hanagata Mitsuru, the genius little league pitcher
Injured his right shoulder and withdrew from baseball
His shoulder healed and his ability to throw have returned
But... in a challenge against a baseball club full of hooligans,
He realized that his shoulder was permanently damaged,
And he would never be able to pitch.
A second time,
Abandoned by baseball and despairing...
Yet...
I CHALLENGE YOU...
ぎゅっ

Chapter 2 - Blossom


NO, HANAGATA KUN!
!

CAN YOU EVEN HOLD A BAT?
YEAH, ISN'T YOUR SHOULDER BUSTED?
HOW ARE YOU GONNA FIGHT?


A-AMANO-SAN?

OUR BASEBALL CLUB DOESN'T CONCERN YOU..
I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU WHEN YOU WERE PITCHING..

THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU...
TO HOLD A BAT!

IT WAS STUPID OF ME TO CONTINUE TO LET YOU PITCH..

……
ズイ ズイ ズズズ……
WAIT, WHAT?
Hanagata-kun?
MY INJURY IS MY RESPONSIBILITY
B-BUT...
……
OKAY, THEN LET'S-
……
NO!
SO LET'S STOP THIS AND GO TO THE HOSPI-
A pitcher who can't take the mound isn't needed in baseball.
I said no more baseball at this school...
MORE THAN ANYTHING...
THIS FIGHT WITH HIM IS FOR ME!

I CAN'T...
I CAN'T FORGIVE WHAT HE HAS SAID!

WHAT MEANING IS THERE TO A MATCH?
WHAT DO I GAIN IF I WIN?

BUT KID
!

It's no good! Fitchers "they're just too proud!

HAAH?
What's up with them?
IT'S JUST TO SEE WHO WOULD WIN.

YEAH...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR KUROSAWA TO DO IT...

THERE ISN'T ANY MEANING AT ALL,

.....
HAH?
Kurosawa?
OKAY KID.. LET'S GO!
WHAT'S HE SAYING? I DON'T GET HIM...
Is he stupid?
LIKE KUROSAWA WILL AGREE TOO...
YEAH!
OK, KID?
.....
C'MON HURRY UP AND GET IN THE BATTER'S BOX,
K-KURO-SAWA... YOU...
Why'd you think?
IT SOUNDS INTERES-TING...
LET'S START THIS... WHATEVER IT IS...

YES!
ARE YA READY, KID?
What are you thinking, Kurosawa?
Kurosawa is... on the mound?
KUROSAWA ACCEPTED.
S-S-SERIOUSLY?

Having only played in elementary school, does he really think he can take on middle school fastballs?
He doesn't really have the build of a slugger...
Guts are the only thing keeping him standing...
but now his shoulder is busted and he's desperate
He was certainly an amazing pitcher...
I'm more worried about the former ace Hanagata Mitsuru!

HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, HANAGATA-KUN IS AT AN OVERWHELMING DISADVANTAGE!!

!?
FORGIVE ME, BUT CAN WE DECIDE IT WITH THE FIRST PITCH?

?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN!
I WANTED TO END IT QUICKLY SO I CAN GO HOME

I'LL BLAST THE FIRST PITCH SO YOU CAN GO HOME.
ぎゅっ
HYAHA! HAHAHA!
BUT...
...WITH A BUSTED SHOULDER...
...CAN A KID...
ぐっ
ぐっ
ガッ
REALLY HIT...
MY PITCH?
ドン

!?
WHA-?
.....
!?
UWA, A DIRECT HIT!
WHA..
A WILD PITCH?
HA

HA.. HANAGATA-KUN?
HYA HA..
HYAAA HAHAHA HAHAHA
KURO-SAWA! WHAT? WHY'RE YOU LAUGH-ING?
WHERE WERE YOU AIMING?
HYAHA
HYAA HAHA!
YOU!
HYAHAHAHA I GUESS THIS MEANS THE MATCH IS OVER...
PLEASE WAIT...
WHERE? I THOUGHT THE HEAD WOULD DO!

.....
I CAN... STILL DO IT...
ARE YOU STUPID, PUNK?
YOU'LL JUST GET HIT AGAIN
LET'S CONTINUE...
B-BASEBALL...

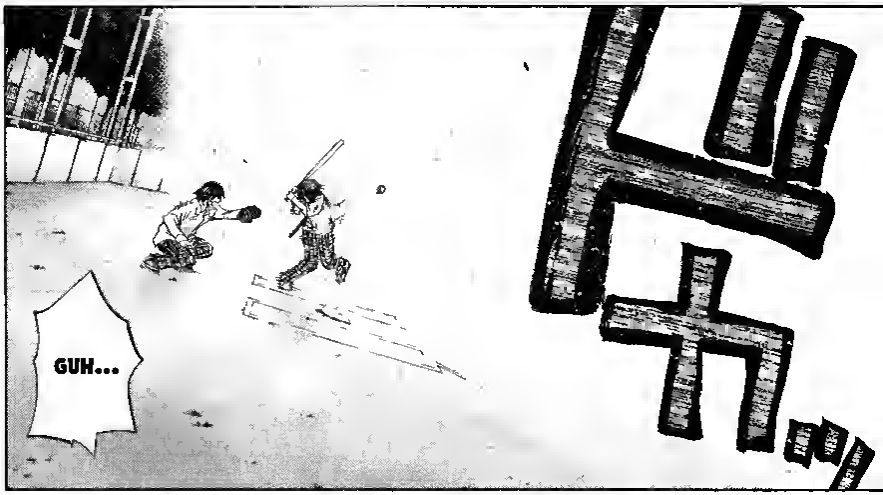
!?
KURO-SAWA?
I SEE...

.....
AS LONG AS THE KID WANTS TO,
WE'LL CONTINUE,
ONE DEAD BALL CERTAINLY ISN'T ENOUGH TO END THE MATCH.
.....
AND I'LL KEEP PITCHING..

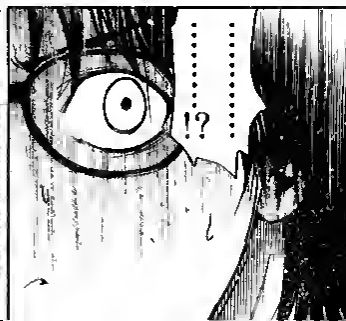
UNTIL THE FINAL PITCH!
HM? WHAT IS IT, TSUKIKO?

UMM... IT SEEMS THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE BASEBALL FIELD...
WHAAAT?
BASEBALL FIELD? IS IT THE BASEBALL CLUB? EWWW!
THOSE HOODLUMS FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER? SO SCARY!
I-IT MIGHT NOT BE..
WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED! LET'S GO
SOME UNSUSPECTING NEW STUDENT IS PROBABLY BEING MADE AS AN OFFERING!
Kyaaa!
.....
Oh... there was that kid
I'M GOING TO LOOK
WAIT?
YEAH, YEAH, LET'S HURRY HOME
HEY! STOP IT!
HEY TSUKIKO, LISTEN TO US!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO!
A crime or something

GWUAH!
HYAHHA!
HYAA HAHA
HA HA HA HA!
GAAAH!


GUH...

HYAA
AAA
HA!


!?

HEY... HANAGATA-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?
HAA... HAAA...
HAA...
BASEBALL
HA... HANAGATA-KUN?
HYAHA HA
YEHAH... GUH
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
HYAHA, SHALL WE CONTINUE?
Y..
YEAH...
.....
THIS ISN'T BASEBALL...
HEY, I'M GOING HOME.
HUH? BUT...
I DON'T WANNA WATCH THIS, THAT KID AIN'T MY CONCERN.
UWAA! HE STILL WANTS TO...
CH...

THAT'S JUST PLAIN TORTURE.
UWA
HEY, HEY, ARE YOU GUYS TRYING TO GO HOME?
NO... AKAGAWA WAS..
ドカッ
GAAH!
HYA HA HA HA
YOU CAN'T HIT THEM, KID..
HMM?
ゴゴゴ
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
DO YOU KNOW WHY HE IS DOING THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M DOING THIS TO HELP HIM.
HAAH?
I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH THIS,
?
dangoun
YOU THINK IT'S OKAY TO HIT HIM UNTIL HE THROWS UP?
WHAT?
IT'S..

REGRET...
...AND PRIDE.
.....
RIGHT?
"AH, BUT I CAN STILL BE A HITTER"
"MY SHOULDER IS BUSTED, SO I CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL"
TO TEACH HIM WHAT IS REAL.
I'M DOING THIS FOR THE NAIVE KID STANDING IN THE BATTER'S BOX,

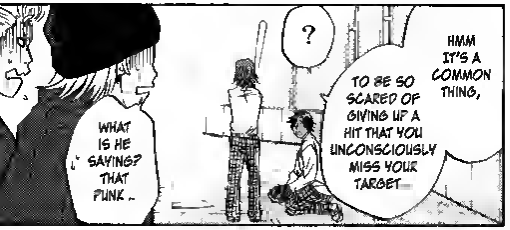
SWITCH TO BATTING AND MAKE A COMEBACK?
BASEBALL AIN'T THAT SIMPLE!
AMANO-SAN?
WHAT ISN'T SIMPLE...
WHAT IS THIS...
ISN'T...
...NOT...

EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE .. JUST..
JUST TO SEE YOU TAKE THE MOUND AGAIN...
MORON... YOU...
I..
I WAS HAPPY,
IS THAT WHY YOU TOOK THE MOUND?
BUT ..
...AMANO-SAN..
BUT...
BUT..

YOUR PITCHES...
NOT ONE
NOT ONE HAS MADE IT TO ME!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS WAITING!
.....
WAITING FOR YOU...
.....
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIS EXCUSE.
ぎゅっ
HANAGATA-KUN?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AMANO-SAN

WHAAAAT?

HA?


WHAT IS HE SAYING? THAT PUNK..
?
HMM IT'S A COMMON THING,
TO BE SO SCARED OF GIVING UP A HIT THAT YOU UNCONSCIOUSLY MISS YOUR TARGET

HUH?
THEN TRY TO PITCH IT
HEY, KID.. YOU'VE GOT THINGS A LITTLE WRONG...

THE EXCUSES OF A PITCHER WHO IS TOO AFRAID OF HE BATTER TO THROW A STRIKE!

STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

!?
What was that?
...Wha...
!
Scared of that runt?
MAKE ME!
?
WHAT'S UP WITH KUROSAWA. IS HE SCARED?
Scared? Me?
CHE
LIKE A BATTER CAN DEMAND A STRIKE FROM A PITCHER...
STUPID MORON..

A PITCHER,
IS A PITCHER BECAUSE THEY ARE TOUCHING THE RUBBER
I CAN'T... STEP ON THE RUBBER ANY MORE...
IS RENOUNCING BEING A PITCHER
COMING OFF THE MOUND BEFORE THE GAME IS OVER,
HA?
WHEN HE STEPS AWAY FROM IT... HE IS JUST THE SAME AS ANY OTHER PLAYER ON THE FIELD

No matter how much I throw...
No matter how much I run...
A pitcher with a busted shoulder...
A...
No matter how much I practice...
No matter how much I work...
Can't...
I...
I can't stand on...
ズキッ
You...
I'm no longer an ace...
1

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BE A PITCHER!
……
……!!
パァーン

スッ…
……
AMANO…
FINE…
I'LL PITCH IT…
That kid… He's keeping Kurosawa who hates baseball on the mound…
アウト…
……
HE'S NOT JUST GONNA HIT HIM AGAIN?
EH? PITCH IT?

IF YOU CAN'T, YOU GIVE UP ON BEING A BATTER.
IF YOU HIT THIS, YOU WIN, KID
BUT... THIS IS THE LAST PITCH,
!
NO ONE HAS EVER HIT THIS PITCH BEFORE...
WE'LL SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A BATTER
IF YOU HIT THIS, I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE...
A GENIUS...

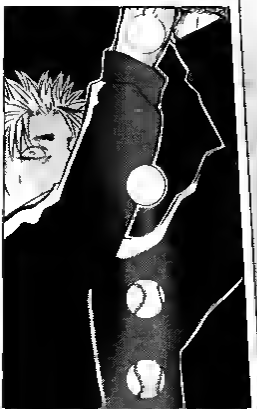
AN UNDER ARM PITCH?
ANOTHER HIT?
It's a form that is hard to pitch well
But if done right, it has more speed than other styles
!?
Yes! Kurosawa is primarily an under arm pitcher!
YOU MORON! THAT'S UNDERARM PITCHING!
IT'S STRANGE!
UWA! WHAT KIND OF STYLE IS THAT?

I've never seen a slider that curves so sharply!
It's so fast for an underarm pitch!
Almost as if it's floating through the air!
I never would have though he could throw a pitch like this...
I...
This pitch...
Right now...
Gaah! My shoulder...
Curving down...?
!?
Just as if it's coming to hit a right handed batter.
But then, keeping its speed, running away and curving towards the outside corner!
THIS IS KUROSAWA'S PITCH... A HIGH SPEED SLIDER!
!!

I...
I CAN HIT IT!
HAVE TO...!

!?
The ball...
Is it behind...
!?
!?
No
Above...

BLASTED
THE BALL..!
He...
He really...



just a pop up to the pitcher

But...

It's really...

HA...
HANAGATA-KUN?
ARE YOU OKAY...?
カラン
.....
Was... hit?
...my pitch...
HANAGATA-KUN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ビュン
Kurosawa's pitch...
ぶるる
HE BLASTED IT...
HE HIT IT..
.....

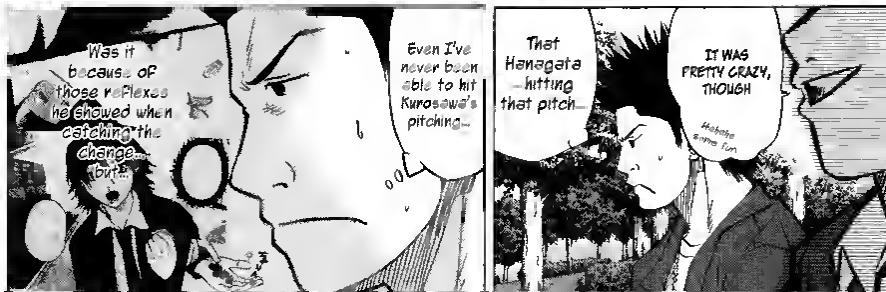
KUROSAWA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
KUROSAWA! YOU SHOW UP AT SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
TSUKIKO, HUH...
WAAH!?
DARN IT!
YOU TOO, AMANO-KUN? WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
What were you doing?
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BEATING UP A NEW STUDENT! YOU MEAN IDIOT!
WHO IS THAT?
WHAT'S HER NAME ..KUROSAWA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND SHE'S IN CLASS 8 TSUKISHIMA OR SOMETHING

IT WAS... IT WAS JUST A FLY BALL!
DARN IT... I GOOFED AND POPPED IT UP...
Why...
Why is he so mad at that?
IT SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE SCHOOL...
...keh
The one who should be mad is...
GAAAH DARN IT!
I... I was aiming for the fence!
DARN... IT....
.....
.....
HE FEEL ASLEEP...
ZZZZZ...
.....
.....
.....

THE VERY LAST PITCH YOU THREW
IT WASN'T RUSTY AT ALL.
WAIT A SEC, KUROSAWA!
HUH... STUPID MORON...
KUROSAWA,
IT WAS...
A GREAT PITCH
.....
AH, KUROSAWA! DON'T JUST LEAVE!
He stops to him
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS IS GETTIN' BORING...
HEY... LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
Y-YEAH...
CHE

WHAT WERE YOU DOING THAT HE ENDED UP LIKE THIS?
BASEBALL
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TELL WHAT HE IS THINKING...
THAT KUROSAWA! SHEESH...
I.. WAS EXCITED, AND I DEFINITELY SAW..
HAAH? AMANO-KUN..
Huuh-h!?
HIT BY HANAGATA-KUN
KUROSAWA'S SERIOUS PITCH
AMANO-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT WAS ONLY A PITCHER FLY, BUT..
KUROSAWA LIFTED HIS GLOVE TO CATCH THE HIT...

AND... HE WON.
AGAINST,
A SERIOUS KUROSAWA.
HANABATA-KUN...
HITTING AND FLYING...
MADE KUROSAWA PLAY SERIOUSLY
HE'S A CHEEKY LITTLE PUNK.
YEAH... IT'S NOT LIKE THE BASEBALL CLUB WILL SUDDENLY GET SERIOUS.
hahaha
SHEESH... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT KID...


Was it because of those reflexes he showed when catching the change... but...
Even I've never been able to hit Kurosawa's pitching...
That Hanagata—hitting that pitch...
IT WAS PRETTY CRAZY, THOUGH
Hahaha some fun

.....
WHY ARE YOU SWEATIN'?
HA?
I wasn't thinking about anything!
HEY, WHAT' UP, AKAGAWA?
You thinking something dirty?
We...
For just a few moments...
Played baseball,
Against Hanagata Mitsuru
I... I...
We were definitely a baseball club.
For that brief second...

I WAS EXTREMELY MOVED BY THAT
ZZZZ...

Translation: Plain Archetype
Clean: Ge4ce
Typeset: Aleyr
QC: Jazzmatazz & Gartor

HANAGATA

花形

第3話（だいわ）

ポイント オブ

Point of

ノー リターン

No Return

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BASEBALL TEAM?
YESTERDAY, THEY WERE FIGHTING ON THE BASEBALL FIELD--
AGAINST A FRESHMAN!
AND JUST BY HIMSELF,
HE BEAT UP EVERYBODY IN THE TEAM!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
NO WAY!
HE BEAT UP THAT ARMY OF DELINQUENTS BY HIMSELF?
THIS HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF MISTAKE WHO'S THAT NEW KID?
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
HMMM... I THINK HIS NAME IS .. HANAGATA...
HEY, HANAGATA MITSURU!

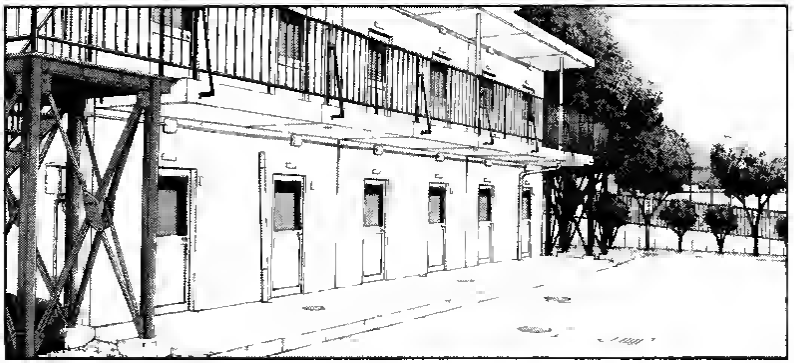
DID YOU REALLY GET INTO SOME KIND OF TROUBLE WITH BASEBALL TEAM?
AND YOU ACTUALLY BEAT THEM UP?
HM..
WHAT IS IT?
OH...
WELL...
I GUESS SO...
...HEY
THIS MIDGET IS HANAGATA MITSURU?
I DON'T KNOW .. BUT HIS FACE IS ALL BEATEN UP SO— HE SHOULD BE, RIGHT?
DID YOU SAY THAT THE BASEBALL TEAM GOT BEAT UP BY THAT MIDGET?
WELL, I GUESS THE RUMOR MILL MIGHT BE WRONG SOMETIMES..
HMPH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS SCARED BY THAT BUNCH OF FATHETIC IDIOTS
WHICH BASEBALL TEAM ARE YOU CALLING PATHETIC, HUH?
HIII!!
The baseball team!

ANYWAYS, WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING AWAY?
WHO KNOWS?
..WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THEM...
YOU'RE NOT GONNA RUN AWAY?
WHY SHOULD I?
I'M SO... S-S-S-SORRY! HELP!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
...GEEZ
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO VICIOUS
I DON'T NEED TO RUN AWAY FROM YOU!
IF YOU ARE PICKING A FIGHT, I'LL TAKE IT.
HEY, STOP IT
HMPH, SO WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS?
AH, AKAGAWA.. YOU..?
THIS GUY IS YOU KNOW,
AND BESIDES, WHY WOULD WE BEAT YOU UP NOW OF ALL TIMES?
WE WON'T DO ANYTHING HERE IN THE OPEN,

STILL HAS THAT INJURY.
HEY, YOUR SHOULDE...
HOW IS IT?
YOU WENT TO THE HOSPITAL... RIGHT?
.....
NOTHING TOO...
I'M NOT SO WEAK THAT YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME!
REA. REALLY...
IF YOU'RE OKAY THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO.
ANYWAYS... YOU.. DON'T COME NEAR KUROSAWA OR US ANY...
.....?
.....

WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS BAD REALLY BAD..
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!
A TEXT?
HM?
AH, ME TOO.
!?
WH-WHAT IS IT?
ドーン
Kurosawa
(non title)
If you found that kid called Hanagata or whatever take him to the rooftop!
KUROSAWA IS CALLING FOR YOU...!!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
.....
HM, HE'S THE FIRST ONE TO DEFY KUROSAWA LIKE THAT, TOO...
IF HE'S BEING CALLED TO THE ROOFTOP THEN THAT MEANS HE'S GONNA GET BEATEN UP, RIGHT...?
I BET HE'S GONNA COME FROM BEHIND AND THEN...
.....
IN A GROUP TEXT!
ズラ
HM?
I SAID IT ALREADY, DIDN'T I?

I WON'T RUN AWAY.



GET SHINY~
GET SHINY AHO...

AH, MY BAD AKAGAWA!
I haven't gone to buy anything yet..
HEY, HOW LONG ARE GOING TO POLISH YOUR GLOVE FOR?

FUFUFU..
FUFUFU..

M-MY BAD..
IF YOU WEREN'T SO FORGIVING, THEY WOULDN'T BE SO COCKY NOW...
EH? TSUKIKO-CHAN?
WHAT'S WITH THE "EH?", AMANO-KUN?
BUT DID YOU SEE KUROSAWA ANYWHERE?
HUH?
saku
I WONDER... KUROSAWA RARELY COMES TO SCHOOL, EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT...
OH MY GOD, WHY!?
HIS NAME IS STILL ON THE BASEBALL TEAM MEMBER LIST, YOU KNOW?
AMANO-KUN, YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN, RIGHT? AT THE LEAST YOU SHOULD KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOUR TEAMMATES ARE PRESENT!
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? YOU MEAN WITH HANAGATA-KUN?
YEAH.... THAT'S WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT... IS HE HERE TODAY?
AH... I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
YEAH..
I THOUGHT THAT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY MIGHT'VE CHANGED HIM A LITTLE...

HANAGATA-KUN ISN'T A MEMBER...
EH?
REALLY?
HE SHOULD BE JOINING THE SENIOR LEAGUE IN THE FALL ONCE HIS SHOULDER HEALS...
THERE'S NO WAY A LITTLE LEAGUE STAR LIKE HIM IS GOING TO ENTER A NAMELESS TEAM LIKE THIS ONE...
HE'S ONLY TAKING A BREAK BECAUSE HE INJURED HIS SHOULDER...
WH-WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
THIS IS BAD... IF WE DON'T GO TO THE ROOFTOP HANAGATA-KUN WILL BE...
TH-THIS TEXT...!!
?
BUT... BUT HE AC-TUALLY...
WOW, MY PHONE!

LITTLE LEAGUE IS A BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR KIDS AGES 9-12, AND THE SENIOR LEAGUE IS FOR 13-15

...AND...
BY CALLING ME OUT TO THIS PLACE,
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
...WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANT THAT?
.....
DO YOU WANT... A FIGHT BETWEEN US THIS TIME?

WE ARE GONNA HAVE A LITTLE TALK.
A TALK? ABOUT WHAT?
...WHAT? SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM...
.....
WHAT'S WITH THIS SILENCE...
HMM, HE MIGHT JUST BE TRICKING ME INTO LETTING MY GUARD DOWN
!?
HERE.. USE THIS
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS IT A WEAPON?
...EH?

A GLOVE?
パス
HURRY AND PUT IT ON.
HERE YOU GO!
THIS... DON'T TELL ME WE'RE...
EH? OH, OKAY...
WHAT'S WRONG? THROW IT BACK!
PLAYING CATCH?
...?

……
HEY, KID!
SO...CAN YOU THROW NOW?
I'LL BE FINE... WITH THROWING THIS MUCH!
……
EH?

THEN GO TO THE SENIOR LEAGUE.
ぱっ
!!
.....
.....!?
WHAT .. WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO THIS BASEBALL TEAM?
YOU WILL ONLY BE THE DUST IN OUR EYES.
TRY NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR BASEBALL TEAM.

WHY...
CAN'T I PLAY BASEBALL AT THIS SCHOOL?
WHAT?
THAT'S BECAUSE...
THERE IS NO MEANING TO IT.
.....
IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE ANY RESULT BEHIND NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE...
IS THERE ANY MEANING TO IT?
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO GO THE SENIOR LEAGUE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
ANNOY-ING...
IF YOU JUST REMAIN HERE, LIKE AMANO... IT'S REALLY ANNOYING

THIS BASEBALL TEAM, AS THE RESULT OF MY "CRIMINAL INCIDENT",
HAS BEEN PUT ON A MORE OR LESS ETERNAL BAN FROM ACTUAL MATCHES AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS.
BECAUSE I SHATTERED...
INCIDENT...?
I'VE BEEN HATED MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THAT
IF YOU CAN'T HAVE A GAME OR MATCH WITH OTHER TEAMS THERE ISN'T ANY MEANING OR PURPOSE TO THE TEAM
WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!
HOW CAN WE STICK WITH A TEAM THAT CAN'T HAVE MATCHES?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING, KUROSAWA?
WE'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR... WHY THE HELL DID YOU COMMIT SUCH VIOLENCE?
EVERYONE ELSE'S DREAM!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
BUT...
THE TEAM...
QUIT
EVERYBODY
AND SO

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO FREAKING STAYED ON THE TEAM!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WITH HIM, BUT...
IT'S REALLY ANNOYING!
IF HE DECIDED TO STAY, THEN WHY NOT TOGETHER...
SHUT UP!
.....!?
HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND?
HE CAN GO HIGHER IF HE GOES TO THE SENIOR LEAGUE!
AND THROWING THAT AWAY...
HE STAYED ON A TEAM THAT CAN'T PLAY A MATCH...
HOW CAN HE AND I WHO MADE IT THIS WAY...
HOW CAN I, OF ALL PEOPLE..

!?
HAVE THE FACE TO MEET,
!
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM IS THIS?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STOP ACTING COOL! KNEEL DOWN BEFORE HIM, AND..
AND PLAY BASEBALL WITH HIM?
HEY, YOU!

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO BOW YOUR HEAD...
.....
!?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE EMBARRASSED FOR A MOMENT OR SO...

ボ

MITSURU-KUN.. I'M VERY SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT YOU CAN NO LONGER THROW LIKE YOU DID BEFORE..
CRACKS IN THE BASEMENT OF A TENDON SUCH AS THE SUPRASPINATUS TENDON... IN ADDITION, THERE ALSO SEEM TO BE SOME ABNORMALITIES IN EPIPHYSIS NEAR THE HUMERAL BONE...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I BOW MY HEAD... UGH...
WHERE IS HE?

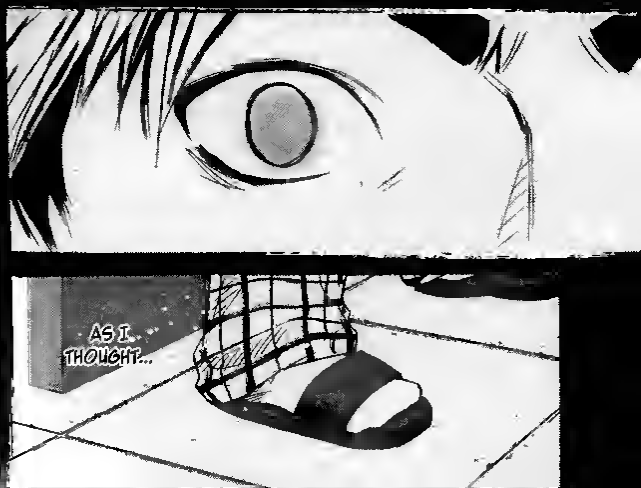
THERE ARE PEOPLE WAITING FOR YOU... AND UNLIKE YOU...
ﾀｯ
ﾀｯ
ﾀｯ

I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO AGAIN...
THERE ARE THINGS THAT...
A PITCHER WITH -GUH-
A BROKEN SHOULDER...
IS SUCH A USELESS TOOL...
THAT NO TEAM WILL EVER ACCEPT IT.
TO DAMAGE HIS SHOULDER JUST AS IT WAS HEALING— MAKES IT WORSE...
.....
NO MATTER HOW MUCH
I BOW DOWN, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO THAT—
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME—

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE WHO CAN NO LONGER BE A PITCHER?

YESTERDAY...

HIS SHOULDER CAN'T BE HEALED ANY MORE...



YOU IDIOT
HANAGATA-KUN... FOR YOU, A PITCHER...
.....
DID YOU FORGET ALREADY?
THE ONE YOU HIT...
WHAT THE HELL IS "I DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO RETURN TO"?!
KU-KUROSAWA!?
HOW CAN YOU BE CRYING LIKE THAT?
JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PLAY AS THE PITCHER
YOU HIT A BIG ONE..
WASN'T THAT HIT OFF OF AN AMAZING PITCHER?
EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE HIT A FLY BALL BY PURE LUCK,
SO BE PROUD OF YOURSELF!
ONE OF THE BEST I'VE THROWN.
OFF OF ONE OF MY THROWS.

!?

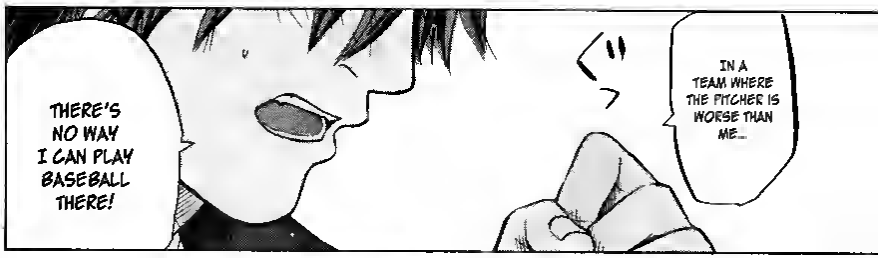
KUROSAWA
IF YOU CONTINUE PLAYING BASEBALL
YOU'LL BE A GREAT BATTER ONE DAY...

I WON'T!
SO GO TO THE SENIOR LEAGUE AND ..

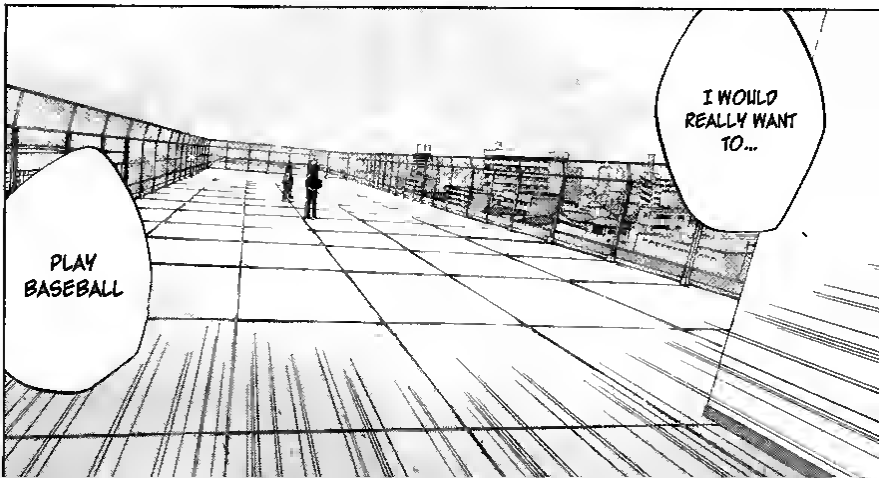
HAA?

BECAUSE YOU ARE REALLY A BASEBALL PRODIGY.

DID YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I JUST SAID?
IN THE LITTLE LEAGUE
THERE WASN'T ANYBODY WHO THREW BETTER THAN I DID...


IN A TEAM WHERE THE PITCHER IS WORSE THAN ME...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PLAY BASEBALL THERE!

BUT..
IF IT WAS YOU...
SOMEBODY WHO'S AS GOOD AS I AM...


I WOULD REALLY WANT TO...
PLAY BASEBALL

WITH YOU!
AH, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I'M NOT DONE YET...
WELL,
!?
YOU FOUND OUT?
MAYBE IT COULD BE QUITE INTERES-TING— RIGHT, AMANO?
HM,
WHA- WHO ARE YOU CALLING A FOOL!?
HMFH... HOW FOOLISH...

PLAYING BASEBALL WITH THAT IDIOT...
KU-KUROSAWA?
MIGHT ACTUALLY BE QUITE FUN...
hya ha
AMANO-SAN?
AH... EH?
ダッ
EH?
Thank... me?
HANAGATA-KUN... THANK YOU.
GEEZ, THAT KURO-SAWA...
UH... PLEASE DON'T TOUCH MY SHOULDER...
ズキッ
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID HE HURT YOU OR ANYTHING?
AH, NO, WELL
NERVOUS

THANKS FOR SAYING...THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL,
WITH A TEAM LIKE THIS, AND WITH KUROSAWA...
FOR UNDERSTANDING HIM.
THANK YOU...
Staff Room

VERY MUCH!!
THANKS TO YOU, KUROSAWA MIGHT...
ACTUALLY COME BACK TO THE BASEBALL TEAM ..
THANK YOU.

WOAH!
KYAAA!!
ST-
STOP
IT!
RUUAAA!!
WOOAAA!!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH DOING ALL THIS!
D-DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE DOING?
!
STOP, KUROSAWA!

THAT'S RIGHT...
I KNOW...
IF THE BASEBALL TEAM REMAINS...
CUZ AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BASEBALL TEAM...
THIS IS THE WAY...
I UNDERSTAND..
I'M HERE...
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD!
TO CRUSH THE BASEBALL TEAM!!

CHIBISUKE & DEADBEAT JOINT PRESENTS:

Translation: Plain Archetype
Clean: mathi36
Typeset: JanPan
QC: Jazzmatazz

HANAGATA

花形

WE'RE HIRING AND SHIZ SO PLEASE APPLY! AS THE SAYING GOES MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK SO APPLY WITH CHIBISUKE OR DEADBEATS. BOTH GROUPS ARE HIRING ALL POSITIONS

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
THANKFULLY NO ONE WAS INJURED... BUT STILL..
THIS IS A FINE MESS.
KUROSAWA KAGETO COMES SUDDENLY BARGING IN WITH A BAT, SWINGING WILDLY.
SAYING HE IS GOING TO SMASH THE BASEBALL CLUB.

KUROSAWA KAGETO IS HEREBY SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL AS PUNISHMENT.

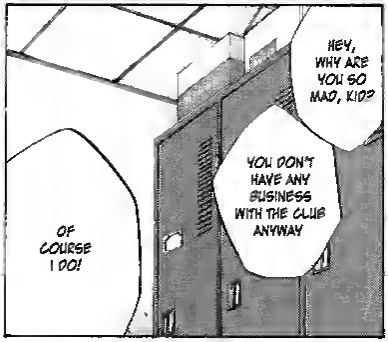
SHALL ALSO BE PUNISHED.
AND... THE BASEBALL CLUB THAT CAUSED THIS

第4話 BLUFF MAN

YOU CAN'T JUST RAID THE STAFF ROOM LIKE THAT.
DID HE JUST RUN OFF AND LEAVE US HANGING?
Chicken
THAT GUY IS SUCH A FUNK!
MAN, WHAT WAS KUROSAWA THINKING...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE CLUB HAS FINALLY MET IT'S END...
BASEBALL CLUB
WHY IS EVERYONE SO DOWN? WHAT'S WITH THIS HEAVY ATMOSPHERE?
WHO CARES IF THE CLUB IS ABOLISHED?
HA HA HA
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE RULES
MAYBE I'LL JOIN THE SOCCER CLUB NEXT..
I can be the next Nakata or Zidane.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE SIGH?
Something wrong?
HAHA-HAHA. HA. HAAH.
.....
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER GUYS.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE PUT MUCH EXERCISE OR THOUGHT INTO IT BEFORE..
So...
Be proud of yourself.
I DON'T GET YOU GUYS!
WE DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER BECAUSE KUROSAWA FLIPPED OUT.

You are
A baseball prodigy!
WHAT...


HEY, WHY ARE YOU SO MAD, KID?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS WITH THE CLUB ANYWAY
OF COURSE I DO!

Even though he said that...
WHY DID HE DO THIS?

I JOINED THE CLUB! SO...
JOINED THE CLUB THERE IS NO CLUB!
I JOINED WHEN THERE WAS ONE!

W...WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
You changed clothes...
...WHERE?

HM?

AMANO-SAN?

IT'S TIME FOR CLUBS.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I'M GOING TO PRACTICE!
PRAC..TICE?
WHAT IS THAT!?

I DON'T GET ANY-
WHAT IS EVERYONE THINKING?
PRACTICING EVEN THOUGH THE CLUB IS ABOLISHED?
EVERYONE IS SO SELF CENTERED! RAMPAGING IN THE STAFF ROOM?
SHUT UP...
SHUT YOUR TRAP, KID!
BUT THIS CLUB WAS FINISHED...
LONG BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECTED FROM THIS CLUB...

FROM THE TIME THEIR RECOMENDATION WAS TAKEN AWAY!
AMANO AND KUROSAWA CHANGED.
KUROSAWA AND AMANO WERE SCOUTED BY A FAMOUS HIGH SCHOOL.
.....!
HEY... AKAGAWA. Is this really okay?
HUH...
...R-ECOMENDATION?
TAKEN AWAY? WHAT...
RECO-MENDATION? WHAT ARE YOU?
They were recommended for the school
And the plain but steady guard Amano...
Those things were highly evaluated.
A underarm pitcher with an unusually fast pitch...
And standing 190cm tall in middle school
UNTIL... KUROSAWA'S CRIMINAL INCIDENT HAPPENED...

AND THEIR RECCOMEDNATION WAS DROPPED.
THE TWO OF THEM WERE SUSPENDED.
SUPPOSEDLY THEY WOUNDED A LOT OF PEOPLE.
KUROSAWA AND AMANO GOT IN A BRAWL WITH SOME STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH, 'CAUSE THEY WON'T TALK ABOUT IT.
EVERYONE QUIT THE TEAM.
BASEBALL CLUB
THE BASEBALL CLUB WAS FORBIDDEN TO TAKE PART IN GAMES.
THE ONLY ONE WHO PRACTICES SERIOUSLY IS AMANO.
FROM THEN ON...
MAYBE HE'S WAITING FOR KUROSAWA TO COME BACK.
MAYBE HE FEELS RESONSIBLE. HE'S... ALWAYS... PRACTICING BY HIMSELF.

The club has been messed up for a while.
HUH? WHERE ARE YOU...
ガッ
カラン
BOTH OF THEM...
YEAH
PRACTICE!
IF YOUR SHOULDER HEALS, YOU CAN GO PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE AND IT'LL BE OKAY!
KEEP OUTTA THIS, KID!
Y-YOU MOROON! THE CLUB IS FINISHED! DON'T BE LIKE AMANO!

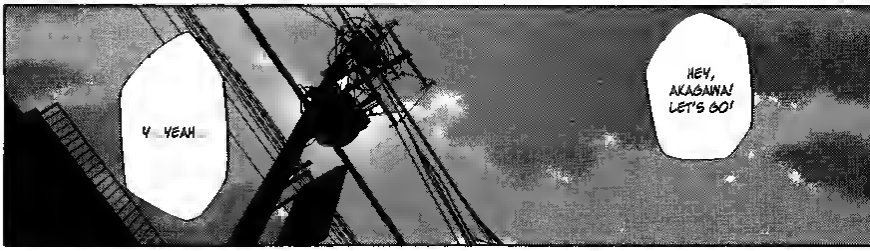
EVEN IF... IT COMPLETELY HEALS...
I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO THROW LIKE I DID BEFORE.
WH...WHAT? YOU...
YOU SAID IT WAS...
But...
I don't want to regret...
Having done nothing!

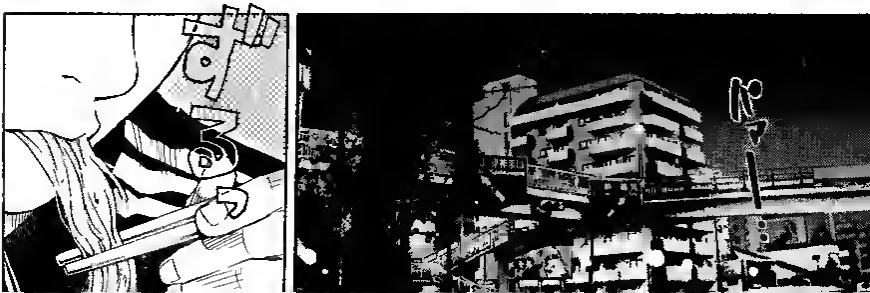
WHA...
バタンッ!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
WHAT...
.....
SO EVERYTHING BUT YOUR SHOULDER IS OKAY, HANAGATA-KUN.
YES!
I KEPT RUNNING EVEN WHEN I HAD MY CAST.
HAHAHA. YOU PROBABLY COULD'VE TAKEN A BREAK...

IS IT OKAY TO PRACTICE WHEN THE CLUB HAS BEEN ABOLISHED?
Mutsuno...
.....
MAN... HE'S REALLY DOING IT.
The sun's already setting...

WHAT DO THEY PLAN TO DO?
JUST THE TWO OF THEM...
THERE'S NO POINT TO IT...

I don't want to regret having done nothing. Huh.
.....


U...YEAH...
HEY, AKAGAWA! LET'S GO!



I'M SO LO-NELY...
HAA...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
EH, I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO GRADUATE EVEN IF I HAVE ABSENSES...
BUT IF I GO HOME, MOM WILL GET MAD...
Soon as I step inside
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I BEEN SUSPENDED?
I want to play baseball again with you...
IT'S NO BIG .
NOW THAT THE CLUB NO LONGER EXISTS .
THEY CAN GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...
SO... THIS IS GOOD...
It's a waste for Hanegata to be rotting away doing nothing.
Amano...
Without the club, he can go play somewhere else...

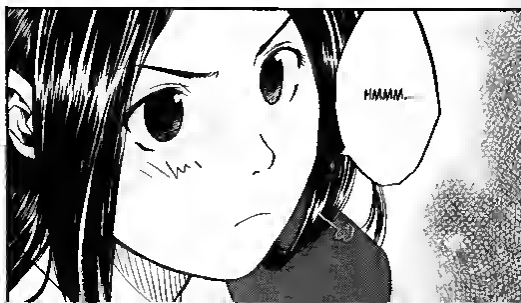
WHAT'S GOOD?

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT DO I... THE SCHOOL IS IN AN UPROAR BECAUSE OF YOU!

UWA AA!?
TSUKI-KO?!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU... YOU DIDN'T GO HOME.

SUSPENDED! YOUR PARENTS WILL BE CALLED TOMORROW!
PSH

IS IT LIKE LAST YEAR?


HMMM...

THANKS TO YOU EVERYTHING FALLS APART AGAIN!
.....
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PLAY AGAIN...
IS IT REALLY THAT BAD IF HANASATA WANTS TO JOIN THE CLUB?
THEN, WAS IT A LIE?
KUROSAWA..YOU..
CHE
WHAT WAS HE DOING... COMING TO A CLUB THAT CAN'T PLAY...
!
WERE THOSE WORDS A LIE?
WHAT YOU SAID ON THE ROOF...
SHUT UP.
IT'LL BE FUN TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH THAT MORON AGAIN...

LIKE I CARE ABOUT HIM!
Along with him...
The chance for me to play...
KURO-SAWA...
From that time...
ORA! PAY UP!
A fight? No, bullying...
ORA!!
...ROSA WA..
I WASN'T REALLY
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT? GOTTA PROBLEM?
HA? WHAT—

KURO. SA.. GET AWAY..
!?
AH? WHAT? YOU KNOW THIS PUNK?
HM? WHY IS HE RUN-
I'M NOT-
UGYAA
HEY, WAIT A SEC...
GUWAA! WHAT'RE YOUGUAH!
WHAT?!
STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICE

School suspension
the following students are suspended for 1 week
Class 2b
Kurosawa Kageto
Amano Shiro
Also the baseball club is further banned from participating in matches with other schools
HE WASN'T FIGHTING AT ALL!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AMANO OR THE BASEBALL CLUB! JUST ME!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO FOUGHT THEM!
DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID?
THE OTHER STUDENTS SAID THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
I WAS JUMPING IN TO HELP AMANO FROM BEING BULLIED!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
HIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE...
カタン
WHY ARE YOU PUNISHING AMANO...
C'MON, KUROSAWA! HURRY UP AND CHANGE
BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN THE CLUB IS FINISHED...
EVERYONE ELSE QUIT, KUROSAWA..
WHA..
MY FAULT..
THAT EVERYTHING BECAME LIKE THIS...
IT'S MY FAULT...

THE CLUB IS FINISHED!
SO WHY DO YOU SAY "LET'S PRACTICE", WITH SUCH A CALM FACE?
I WON'T PLAY BASEBALL...
EVER AGAIN AT THIS SCHOOL!
IF that club was not there...
Since that club was there...
Never quit practicing...
From then... Amano...
WHO WOULD BE THERE AT THIS TIME...
NOISE FROM THE FIELD?
AT SCHOOL,
HMM?

WHA...
WHAT ARE THEY...?
09

WHY ARE YOU GUYS PLAYING BASEBALL?
WHY INDEED... STRANGE, HUH?
EH?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
WHY ARE YOU COMING TO SCHOOL IF YOU'RE SUSPENDED?
AKAGAWA?
BUT NO ONE'S GONE HOME YET.
Hahaha
PLAYING UNTIL THIS LATE.
WE LOOK REALLY STUPID.
WHY ARE YOU PRACTICING!
THE CLUB IS DISBANDED!
JUST BECAUSE THERE ISN'T A CLUB, DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T PLAY
BUT... WHY... WHY...
THEEE IS NO CLUB, MOEONS!

This is about baseball... whether we like it or not.
...like baseball
Kuro-sawa... I...
AMANO! YOU-
MORON...
SHUT...
BASEBALL...
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SHUT UP!

You like it.
You really like baseball.
KUROSAWA...
...idiot...

YOU DESTROYED THE BASEBALL CLUB TWICE, RIGHT?
DID YOU THINK THAT YOU COULD JUST WALTZ RIGHT BACK IN HERE?
.....
HA-HANAGATA-KUN..
I HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT FROM AMANO..
TO BE HONEST.. SUCH A VIOLENT PERSON ISN'T REALLY QUALIFIED TO PLAY WITH US..
..I WOULD SUPPOSE
BUT... WELL...

If you like baseball that much...
I'll let you join our team!

HEH...

IDIOT...

Thank you for buying this tankoban of "Hanagata"! I am thankful that it was able to take form. To think that someone like me, who was a substitute player in little league baseball, would make a baseball manga, and "Star of the Giants" at that... Life is really unpredictable (lol) Yes! This manga is a remake of the famous "Star of the Giants"! But even those who aren't familiar with the original will be able to enjoy it. If those people read this and gain an interest in the original, or those familiar with the original read this and think "This is familiar...", then I will be happy.

I would like to take this space to deeply thank Kawazaki Noboru-sensei for consenting to my design changes to the character of Hanagata Mitsuru and the story so far, as well as Kajiwara Ikki-sensei's wife Takamori Atsuko-san for graciously accepting the changes to the story

Murakami Yoshiyuki - 2006

The above picture was used for the cover of this tankoban, as well as the cover of Weekly Shonen Magazine and advertisements in train stations and the like. It was the first image of the series that everyone saw. (So of course it was the cover of the tankoban.)

Frankly,
Back when this serialization was still in the planning stages, this was the first picture I practiced coloring (lol). It's a little embarrassing to have it enlarged. (It was done on B5 copy paper, and if you look closely you can see that the color is a little messed up.)

When it was decided that this picture would appear on the tankoban cover, I figured that I'd fix it...then I got the original back...and figured it added character to the tankoban, so I gave it back as it was. (If I edited it poorly, it would turn out weird, right?)

When I went to Kumamoto to meet with Kawasaki Noboru-sensei, I showed him this picture and he said "It looks like the kind of main character that is common today, so it's good." There are a lot of memories in this picture.

This is a little of topic, but I had the picture hanging on the wall in my workplace for so long that my editor said "You have to put that thing away!" Now, even this scolding has become a good memory. (I'm glad I didn't hang it up with thumb tacks.)

CHIBISUKE & DEADBEAT JOINT PRESENTS:

TRANSLATION: PLAIN ARCHETYPE
CLEANS: AIRI, MATHI36, SOMEONE2040
TYPESET: SOMEONE2040, JAZZMATAZZ
QC: JAZZMATAZZ

HANAGATA

花形

WE'RE HIRING AND SHIZ SO PLEASE APPLY! AS THE SAYING GOES MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK SO APPLY WITH CHIBISUKE OR DEADBEATS. BOTH GROUPS ARE HIRING ALL POSITIONS